

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a user terminal, a desired content and a use condition are selected, and a use of the content is requested to a content server. In the content server, 5 the requested content is encrypted with a predetermined encrypting key and transmitted to a content processing apparatus. License control information including usage right information having identification information and condition of use of 10 the selected content and user specific information is generated, and is transmitted together with a decrypting key corresponding to the encrypting key to a usage right control server controlling the usage right of the content. Also a ticket including an 15 identifier of the license control information is generated and transmitted to the content processing apparatus. The identifier of the license control information is transmitted from the content processing apparatus to the usage right control 20 server, which communicates with the content processing apparatus based on the user specific information in the license control information corresponding to the identifier, thereby verifying an authorization for use of the user. In case of a 25 successful verification, the usage right information and the decrypting key are transmitted from the authorizing server to the content processing

apparatus, and the content is decrypted by the
decrypting key in the content processing apparatus
and the decrypted content is processed based on the
usage right information. In this manner an arbitrary
5 content distribution is enabled without requiring a
special recording media and under a copyright
protection.